(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. AU ASHRAF RATMI): (a) to (c) In view of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003 that five new NTs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee to identify such academic institutions. A number of proposals from various State Governments have been received by the Government and are under consideration of the Expert Committee. The proposal relating to setting up of an I IT in Andhra Pradesh at Basar is also under consideration of the Expert Committee. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Development of education in Madhya Pradesh

†1240. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government for development of education in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the Grants provided during the last financial year for promotion of sports, nutrition etc. in the colleges of the States; and

(c) the amount to be spent by the Centre in the Education "Head" of the State for the welfare of the educationally backward minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Environment and life science education

1241. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether It is proposed to introduce environment and life science education in schools and colleges;

(b) If so, the details of the project and the academic year from which it would be started; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.